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Message Text

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67
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OES-03 EB-07 COME-00 STR-04 /099 W
---------- 041405
R 192209Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8567
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 0221

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, PARM, CA, IN
SUBJECT: INDIAN ECONOMIC COUNSELOR PAYS COURTESY CALL TO SCIENCE COUNSELOR

1. MR. SHAMSHER SINGH, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION, PAID A COURTESY CALL TO EMBASSY SCICOUNS JANUARY 19 OSTENSIBLY TO INFORM SCICOUNS AS DEAN OF LOCAL SCIENCE OFFICER CORPS THAT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL MATTERS FOR INDIA AS WELL AS ECONOMIC COUNSELOR WITH BROAD HINT THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO JOIN IN PERIODIC GATHERINGS OF OTTAWA SCIENCE OFFICERS. IN REALITY, DISCUSSION WAS 99 PERCENT CONCERNED WITH ATOMIC ENERGY, "PNES", CANADA'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS INDIA ON ATOMIC ENERGY MATTERS WITH SOME PERIPHERAL PROBING CONCERNING RECENT SUPPLIERS MEETINGS.

2. DURING CONVERSATION WHICH LASTED OVER AN HOUR, SINGH FORCE-FULLY STATED INDIA'S POLICY POSITION AND MADE REPEATED POINT THAT POSITION BEING TAKEN BY NUCLEAR "HAVE" COUNTRIES WAS PATENTLY UNFAIR, UNJUST, AND DISCRIMINATORY. IN THIS AREA
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SINGH SAID NOTHING NEW. WHAT HE DID SAY WHICH WAS NEW, AT

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LEAST TO THIS EMBASSY, WAS AS FOLLOWS:

A. IN VARIOUS WAYS HE MADE IT PLAIN THAT CANADA'S EMBARGO ON ALL ASSISTANCE TO INDIA EXCEPT HUMANITARIAN AID WAS WORKING REAL HARDSHIP ON INDIA.

B. "IF THE REPORTS ARE RIGHT", THE PURPOSE AND PRINCIPAL RESULT OF SUPPLIERS MEETINGS VERGED ON THE IMMORAL.

C. HE PERCEIVED A "GREAT CLEAVAGE" WITHIN THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ON THE SUBJECT OF SAFEQUARDS AND FELT THAT THE "HARD LINERS" WERE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND AECB.

3. EMBASSY IS SOMEWHAT AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN OR UNDERSTAND EITHER SINGH'S SURFACING HIMSELF AS RESPONSIBLE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OR HIS CHOOSING AMERICAN EMBASSY AS FORUM FOR A TOUR DE FORCE ON INDIA'S ATOMIC ENERGY POLICY. INFORMATION BEING REPORTED ON THE CHANCE THAT DEPARTMENT MAY BE AWARE OF SOME INITIATIVE ON THE PART OF GOI WHICH HAS NOT BECOME APPARENT HERE.
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